

# The MPACT Initiative: Using Behavioral Tools to Improve Children's Early Math Skills



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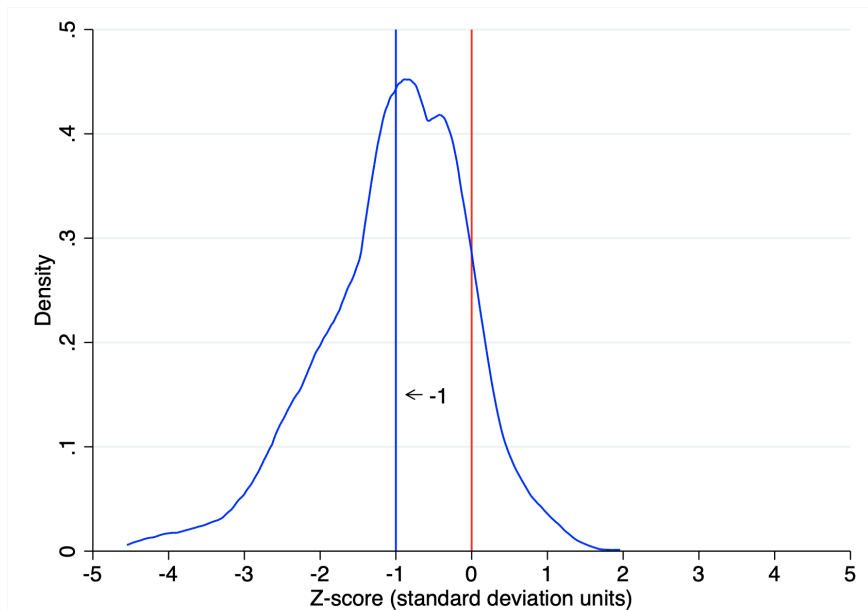


William Delgado

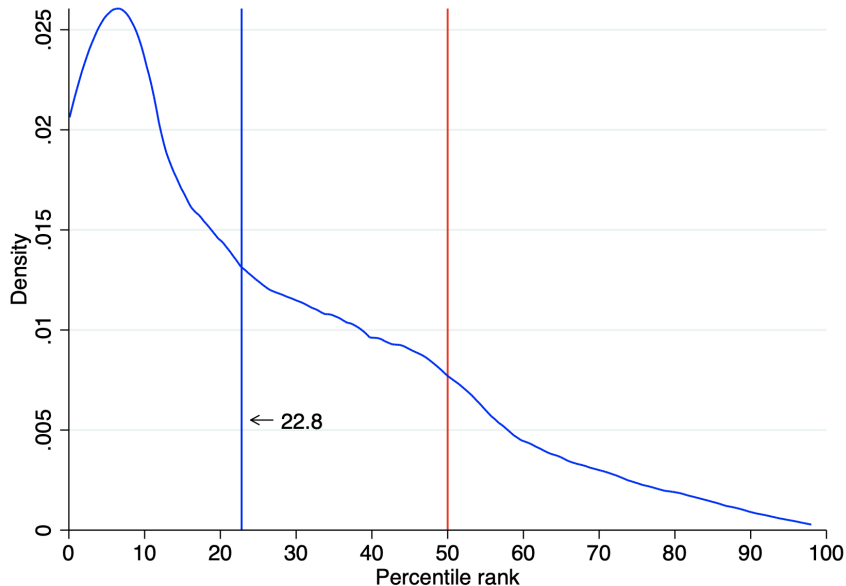
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Promising Math 2019

# Participant children start preschool behind other students



They rank in the 23rd percentile



# Our goal is to help parents and close the achievement gap

- **Problem:** Underserved children arrive at school behind in math skills and they hardly catch up to more advantaged students.
- **A few possible reasons:**
  - ▶ Lack of information, materials, or skills.
  - ▶ Present bias: the tendency to under-value future payoff  $\Rightarrow$  lower parental investment.
  - ▶ Fixed mindset: belief that skills are set at birth and fixed.

# The Math for Parents and Children Together (MPACT) Initiative

## 1 MPACT early math videos



## 2 MPACT field experiment



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**Center for Human  
Potential and Public  
Policy (CHPPP)**

# The Math for Parents and Children Together (MPACT) Initiative

## 1 MPACT early math videos

- ▶ 6 videos
- ▶ English and Spanish
- ▶ [▶ Link to videos](#)

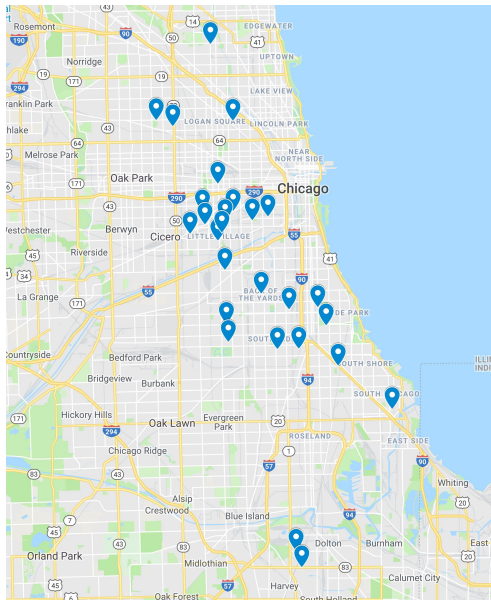
## 2 MPACT field experiment

- ▶ In the field until March 2020
- ▶ English and Spanish

# MPACT field experiment: treatment arms

- **MKit only:** Booklet with math activities.
- **MKit + present bias:** Booklet + text messages to overcome present bias.
- **MKit + growth mindset:** Booklet + text messages with growth mindset content.
- **Tablet:** Tablet with math apps.

Recruitment: 1,458 children in 29 Head Start centers





# Thank you!

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